

LITERATURE.

REVIEW OF NEW BOOKS.

BRUISING A BUTTERFLY. OR, BLANCHER ELLIOTT'S ENDING. By the author of "Guy Livingstone," etc. Published by J. B. Lippincott & Co.

The tastes of the author of this work are highly aristocratic, and his models are always taken from the upper circles of English society; or rather he attempts to characterize as always, but whether his sketches of character are always from life is another matter. In spite of the rather supercilious air of nobility which pervades his novels, the author of "Guy Livingstone" is a graphic writer, and his stories are full of interest.

Turner Brothers & Co. and Porter & Coates send us cheap paper cover editions of the same novel, published by Harper & Brothers.

From J. B. Lippincott & Co. we have received "Shining Hours," by Paul Moraine, Published by D. Lothrop & Co., Boston. This is a religious story for young people, in which the religious teachings are skillfully interwoven with an interesting narrative of home life and adventure in the great world.

From Turner Brothers & Co. and Porter & Coates we have received "Evening by Evening, or Readings at Eventide, for the Family or the Closet," by Rev. C. H. Spurgeon. Published by Sheldon & Co. This work is intended as a companion to "Morning by Morning," by the same author.

The author says in his preface that the vice of many religious works is their dullness. From this vice he has endeavored to be free. The readings are short; and they will doubtless receive a warm welcome in many families. They are well adapted to the purposes of family worship, and the qualities which have made Mr. Spurgeon's other writings so popular will commend this work to a large circle of pious persons who feel that they require some such assistance at their devotions.

T. B. Peterson & Brothers send us "The Curse of Gold," by Mrs. Ann S. Stephens. This story has been running for some time in the New York Weekly, where it has proved extensively popular. Many of those who have perused it while in course of serial publication will doubtless be glad to read it again in its present shape. Mrs. Stephens in her preface states that she has been criticized at various times for her improbable characters, but that invariably the characters thus objected to have been drawn from life, and she assures her readers that this is the case with "Madame de Marique" in the present story.

Turner Brothers & Co. send us the half dollar edition of Tennyson's Poems, published by Fields, Osgood & Co., which give all the poetical writings of the laureate in a neat, convenient, and inexpensive form; a cheap edition of Charles Reade's exciting prison romance, "It is Never Too Late to Mend," published by Harper & Brothers; and "Illustrations of the Poets, from Passages in the Life of Little Billy Vikius," an amusing series of comic sketches by M. L. Stephens.

J. B. Lippincott & Co. send us Part III of Auerbach's "Villa on the Rhine." Published by Leopold & Holt. This romance increases in interest as it advances, and it will be read and appreciated by those who delight in really good literature. The edition published by Leopold & Holt is convenient in size, attractive in appearance, and it is especially worthy of the regards of the public, as the author is interested in the profits.

From the American Sunday-School Union we have received the second series of "The Old Feather Books," titled as follows:—"The Man who ran away from Himself," "The use of a Child," "The Man who kept Himself in Repair," "This Day Month," "Paddle Your own Canoe," and "He's Overboard."

Turner Brothers & Co. send us "The Vocalist," a periodical publication of popular music. Published by Fisher & Denison, New York. Price, 5 cents.

THE MAY MAGAZINES.

Turner Brothers & Co. send us the May number of Putnam's Magazine, which has the following contents:—"Thomas Carlyle as a Practical Guide," "Christina Sylvia," a poem, by F. B. Plimpton; "A Stranded Ship," Part I, by F. Clarke Davis; "The Choler in Asia," by J. C. Peters, M. D.; "In Early Spring," a poem, by George Cooper; "Rhyme," by George Wakeman; "The Emperor's Eye," by Asburn Townor; "The Dream of Life," by Rev. W. R. Alger; "The Voyage of the Esperanza," by Jane G. Austin; "Guglicimo Gajani and the Roman Republic," by Rev. J. P. Thompson, D. D.; "Today," chapter xv to xvii, by R. B. Kimball; "Mexico and the United States;" "Current Events;" "Literature, Science, and Art Abroad," by Bayard Taylor; "Literature at Home," by E. C. Steadman; "Fine Arts," by S. S. Conant; "Table Talk," by Clarence Cook.

From Mr. Alger's "Dream of Life" we make the following quotation:

There is one curious and difficult inquiry to which no satisfactory reply has yet been given. It is in regard to the horrible phenomenon of nightmare. Why is it that our dreams, when we sleep in an easy position and the organism is in healthy action, are beautiful and agreeable; but when we sleep in a cramped, oppressive attitude, or are suffering from indigestion, they are invariably of a frightful character, full of deformity or danger, causing pain and terror? Of this abstruse and interesting problem the following solution is suggested—a solution which, it is believed, will be acceptable and conclusive to those familiar with the ultimate principles of physiological and psychological science. Ugly and terrible outward phenomena, reported in relation to what the exigency requires of the organism, produce disturbing and violent reactions in various nerve-centres. These reactions, reporting themselves in the brain, are there, by the inverse action of the law of association, taken to imply the presence, as outward causes, of the ugly and terrible phenomena of which they had before been consequences. If a piece of tough beef in the stomach causes from within just such a ganglionic perturbation as would be caused from without by a murderous deed or a fall from a precipice, is it not quite natural that the mind, deprived of its usual verifying tests, should think its subjective interpretation of the former an objective experience of the latter?

The commonest mistake in regard to dreams is the belief that they enter the mind from above. With fine fancy, but feeble thought, we sleep in a traitor who fills the poor defenceless eyes with blackness, that he may let us dream. When they are introduced, as it sometimes does, so exciting and powerful as to strike the springs of volition, and thus move the muscles, we have somnambulism, which is a dream put into action. Are not some men sleep-walkers all their days, putting their dreams into action? The essence of a dream, then, is that objects and events which are only ideally perceived within the mind are credited as having outward existence. And in this innermost essence of the thing, in this outwardness, the dreamer is not, our whole life full of dream? It is not, our whole life in one of those pregnant paragraphs which often fell from his pen, "If we were solitary when awake, but dreamed in company, and our dreams accorded with each other, who doubts that we should be two matters reversed? In fact, as we frequently dream that we dream, piling one dream upon another, it is quite possible that this life itself is only a dream, on which others are grafted, from which we awake at death, and during which we have the principles of the true and the good as little as during natural waking. How many things, which for the time warp and shape us, are limited to our own souls, pure idealities destined never to be any part of the veritable world! It is one of the deep utterances of old Heraclitus that "they who are awake have a world, and they who are asleep have a world; but they who sleep are retired each to his own private world." Nevertheless, literal and large as the truth in this maxim is—still with reference to our moral experience an inverse statement; for the former cause of it would express a graver truth, and one with a more comprehensive inference. Our common waking life is like dream, in that in each man lives a special experience within a world specially shaped and colored by his dominant idiosyncrasies.

"Well may sleep present us visions, Since our waking moments seem With such enchantments filled, As make life itself a dream."

THE DREAM.

It is modern, from the first word to the last. The truth is, it is a bona fide translation of Wolff's original, published as such, in the Deutscher Maendchenbuch for the year 1842. I think I am not positive as to the year, but the book was given to me in Germany, in 1844, and the translation seemed to me so well done that I then committed it to memory. The word "Schreier" in the second stanza should be "Schreier"; and in the third stanza, the word "Freunde" has been forcibly changed into "Schreier," possibly in order to make the poem apply to "the famous Swedish hero, General Torstenson!" (Moreover, the Torstenson did not "fall at the siege of Danzig," but died in his bed at Stockholm.) In the *Musendianer* referred to, the name of the translator was given, but I have forgotten it. The French version also bears its origin. It is a stiff and uneasy translation; and by no means the poem which would have been written upon an officer who "was shot, in 1749, at the siege of Pondicherry." (There was no siege of Pondicherry in 1749! The memorable siege was in 1761.)

It is well known that Wolff's poem was first published with two additional stanzas, which he afterwards, with excellent judgment, omitted. Nevertheless, they alone are sufficient to decide the authorship. They ran thus:—"And there let him rest, though the foe should raise, In zeal for the fame they covet, A tomb or an altar to his praise Of him who has scored above. By Englishmen's feet when the turf is trod, Let them offer a prayer to England's God For him who was England's blessing!"

As for the "probability" that Wolf Tong "communicated" the French poem to Wolff, it is enough to say that Wolf Tong committed suicide in 1768, when Wolff was seven years old! As for the latter's other poems, they are not all failures; his "Grammocher" is one of the tenderest laments in the language. Let us have no more unnecessary mystifications.

Messrs. Turner Brothers & Co. send us *Frank Leslie's Lady's Magazine* for May. The fashion plates, pattern sheets, and information about the latest styles, are unusually full and reliable in this magazine, and in addition is given an excellent miscellany of poetry, pictures, stories, and sketches, which combine information and entertainment in a manner that will be appreciated by the lady readers.

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Reserve for insurance made, 22,400 94

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Unsettled claims, 816,100 00

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